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# **Off Highway Vehicle License Fund Grant Application Packet**

**October 30, 2015**

**Submitted by the Central Coast Motorcycle Association  
www.centralcoastmoto.com  
P. O. Box 4942  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406**

**Division of California Trail Users Coalition  
www.ctuc.org  
3550 Foothill Boulevard  
Glendale, Ca  
91214**

**Please contact: Mark Miller  
pismomillers@sbcglobal.net  
805-441-2092**

## **Access Road Maintenance and Improvements**

- 1. Date of Application: October 30, 2014**
  
- 2. Applicant - Central Coast Motorcycle Association  
P. O. Box 4942  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406  
Contact: Mark Miller pismomillers@sbcglobal.net 805-441-2092  
C/o California Trail User's Coalition  
3550 Foothill Blvd.  
Glendale, CA 91214**
  
- 3. Project title – Access Road Maintenance and Improvements**
  
- 4. Amount of funding requested: \$20,000**

See attached verification of non-profit status

## 5. Complete project description

Maintenance and upgrades are needed on sections of Hi Mountain road that provide access to OHV recreational routes in the National Forest and full utilization of OHV opportunities.

Brief history of this segment of road.

High Mountain Road is one of the oldest roads in San Luis Obispo County. Originally constructed as a stage coach road to connect the towns of Pozo and Arroyo Grande, the road has more recently become a favorite back country byway. The road provides access to sites such as the Hi Mountain Lookout and High Mountain Campground.

At one time High Mountain Road was established as a county road through a right of way agreement with a private land owner. As part of this agreement, the County of San Luis Obispo and the US Forest entered into an agreement to transfer an easement, along with maintenance responsibilities, from the county to the Forest.

For various reasons the Forest Service did not finalize the agreement. The County, however, removed this segment of the road from the “County Maintained” road system. Because Forest Service regulations prohibit the use of federal funding for maintenance or repairs of roads on non-federal lands little if any maintenance has been performed since 2007 and the condition of the roadway has deteriorated. Forest leadership recently changed and the County is presently working with the Forest Service to develop a maintenance agreement for segments of the road located on non-federal land.

San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department has proposed that funding for maintenance of the road located on non-federal land be made available from off-highway vehicle funds. This agency will have project management responsibility. County Public Works intends to develop and let a contract for improvements on portions of the road that will assure compliance with applicable county, state and federal regulations.

This grant proposal would provide one time partial funding in the amount of \$20,000 for improvements to these sections of High Mountain Road. The primary funding source would be off highway vehicle “in lieu” funds that the County distributes internally for identified needs.

Total Project costs are expected to be \$80,000; \$60,000 from County internal funds, and \$20,000 from this grant.

The scope of the project will be to regrade the road surface, repairing and/or incorporating new water control features as needed to reduce risk of erosion and improve sustainability.

**Match:** The CCMA will provide grant administrative management as well as some logistical support. Volunteers will conduct before and after roadway condition surveys and documentation of progress. CCMA volunteers will be on site whenever possible while the work is being performed.

The CCMA can provide a trail dozer, 4X4 pickup and equipment trailer, utility vehicles, and hand tools as part of the match if needed.

**6. Objective of project**

Provide essential partial funding for improvements of portions of Hi Mountain to keep it as a viable access route to both motorized and non-motorized recreation in the National Forest.

**7. Project completion schedule**

The road work is planned for the fall/winter/spring of 2016/2017 whenever weather and soil conditions permit.

**8. Justification for project**

This section of High Mountain road provides access to the national Forest including OHV recreational routes such as the Garcia Ridge jeep trail, as well as High Mountain Lookout and High Mountain Campground. Federal funding is not currently available to maintain it. Utilizing County OHV “in lieu” funds would provide one-time funding for improvements to prevent further deterioration of the roadway until a road maintenance agreement is established.

**Number of persons served:**

Based on estimated use of the Pozo/La Panza Trail System documented below, it is estimated that this roadway is utilized for access to OHV Routes by 2500 users per year. Its use for motorized access to non-motorized recreational opportunities is estimated to be much higher, perhaps 14,000 trips per year.

**Estimated use of the Pozo/La Panza Trail System**

We estimate that the Navajo Flats staging area receives, at a minimum, 5000 and 7500 visits per year. This is based on traffic counter data collected by the Forest Service. Trail traffic counter data recorded during 2009 revealed that Burnout trail, which originates from the Navajo Flats Staging area, received approximately 10,000 trips. Red Hill Road, which provides access to the Navajo Flats staging area, received over 14,000 trips.<sup>1</sup>

14% of “walk in” inquiries at the Forest Service office in Santa Maria were OHV related<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Trail Counter Data, Santa Lucia Ranger District, 2005-2009 – see Attachment B, Visitor Use Data

<sup>2</sup> Walk-in tally 2012, US Forest Service, Santa Maria District Office

National Forest Visitor Use (NVUM) data was collected for Los Padres National Forest in 2009. A NVUM survey for 2014 is in process but results were not available at the time of this application.

2009 Results are attached and can be verified by using the interactive web site found here: <http://apps.fs.usda.gov/nrm/nvum/results/A05007.aspx/Round2>. The Survey reports approximately 50 vehicles per day at the Turkey Flats staging area on the two days surveyed.<sup>3</sup> Turkey Flats is a second staging area for the Pozo La Panza OHV area. NVUM survey data is not available for Navajo Flats.

OHV recreation is popular in San Luis Obispo County. San Luis Obispo OHV Registrations (green sticker) totaled 7,027 for a population of 253,600 (California Fuel Tax Study, 2006).<sup>4</sup> OHV recreation is popular in the Western States. 17.6 % of the population over age 16 has participated in OHV use. 12% of population is 16 or older.<sup>5</sup> (Cordell et al., 2008.)

### **Alternatives:**

- a. Complete a maintenance agreement for this section of High Mountain road so that it qualifies for federal road maintenance funds. With new leadership on the Los Padres Forest County Public Works officials are hopeful that an agreement can be reached between the two agencies. However, due to the complexity of such agreements both parties expect this to take more than two years. In the interim the road will further deteriorate.
- b. Do not perform road maintenance. This is not considered a viable alternative. This section of road could be expected to degrade and a road closure could be necessary to assure public safety. Deferring maintenance for a few years would lead to degradation that would require greater cost to correct. Regular maintenance reduces the need for more costly improvements.

## **9. Long range plans and maintenance of the project**

As stated in section 8, above County OHV in lieu funds would provide interim improvement and maintenance funding. The long term maintenance of this section of High Mountain road should be funded via other sources.

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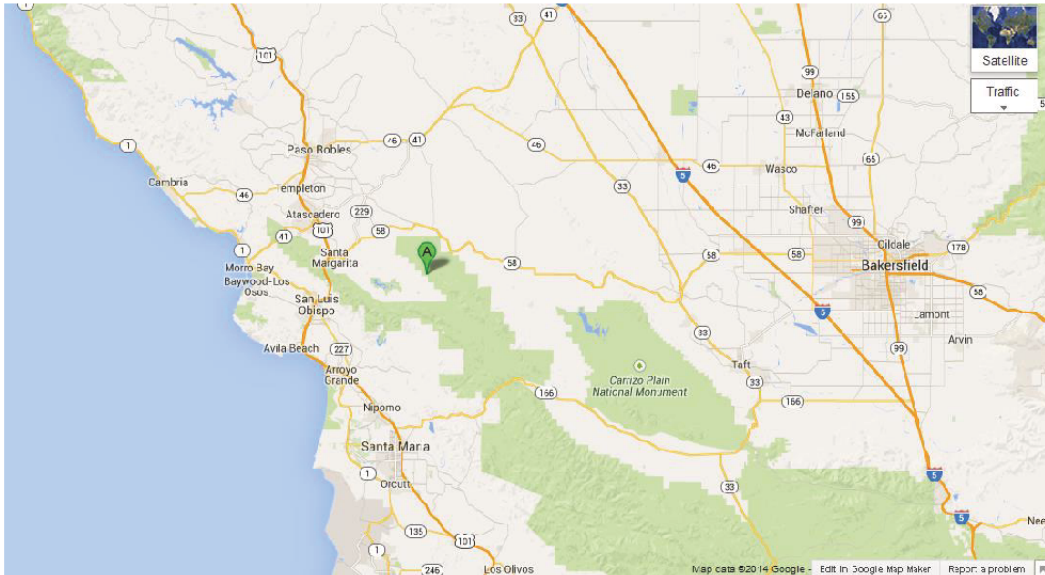
<sup>3</sup> Non-Proxy Results by Survey Day, National Visitor Use Monitoring, US Forest Service, 2009 <http://apps.fs.usda.gov/nrm/nvum/results/A05007.aspx/Round2>. Accessed Feb 2013.

<sup>4</sup> Estimating the State Fuel Tax Paid on Gasoline Used in the Off-Highway Operation of Vehicles for Recreation: Survey Results, September 2006, Table 4.1, page 4-6. California State Parks. <http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/pages/1140/files/fuel%20tax%20survey%20report.pdf>

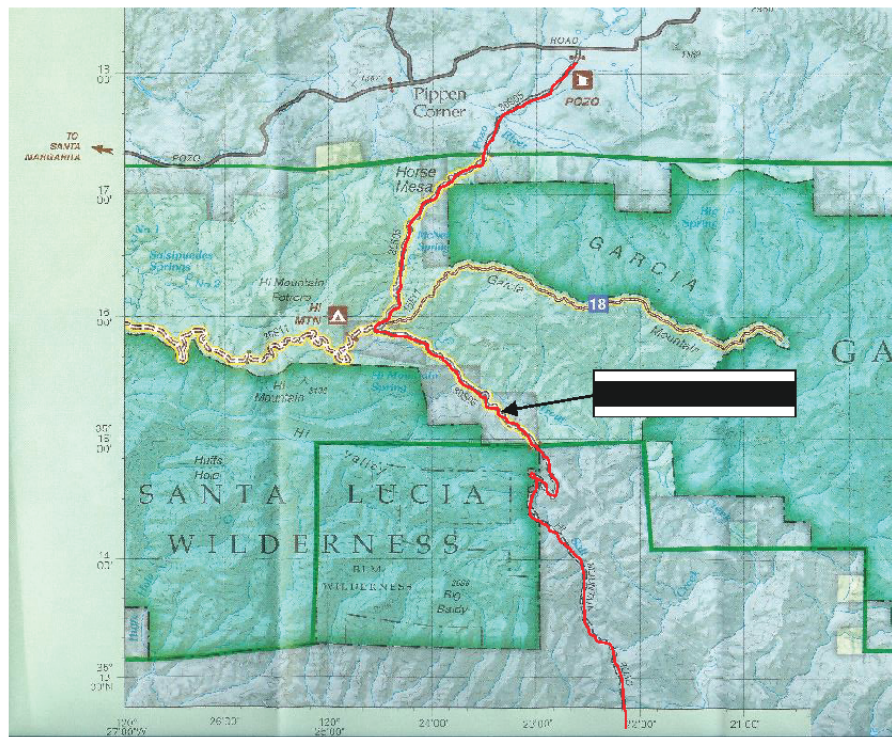
<sup>5</sup> Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation in the United States and its Regions and States: A National Report from the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE), February, 2008, H. Ken Cordell Carter J. Betz, Gary T. Green, Becky Stephens. USDA Forest Service, 2008. <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/IrisRec1rpt.pdf>

## 10. Description of land status, ownership, legal description, vicinity and site maps

The sections of High Mountain road that is the topic of the grant are on the unpaved portion located on private and Forest Service land in San Luis Obispo County about 35 miles from the cities of San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles.



Project Location Vicinity Map



Project Location Site Map

The owners of private land traversed by this road segment have granted the County an easement. The road is identified as a non-county maintained road. Forest Service regulations do not allow federal funds to be used for roads that traverse private land.

**11. Land owner authorization for the project**

The Forest Service and the County have the right to maintain the road and they support this project. See attached letters from those agencies.

**12. History of condition and status of resource and expected benefits**

Historically this section of High Mountain road was maintained through an agreement between the Forest and the County and was well maintained with regular maintenance until approximately 2007- 2008.

Due to the recent lack of a maintenance agreement between the County and Forest there has been no source of funding and no maintenance performed since that time. Over the last 7 years the roadway has deteriorated such that its continued use as an access route to the Forest is in jeopardy.

This project will provide maintenance for portions of roadway needing improvement ensuring this access route will remain open to the public. In addition the project will minimize potential resource damage due to water runoff and soil erosion.

**13. Copies of design plans etc.**

See project site map in section10.

#### 14. Detailed description and estimated costs

PROJECT TITLE: <b>2016/2017 Access Road Maintenance and Improvements</b>							
CATEGORY	QTY	UNIT*	UNIT COST	SUBTOTAL	MATCH	GRANT REQUEST	TOTAL PROJECT COST
<b>STAFF:</b>							
Volunteers	16	hrs	\$20.00	\$320.00	\$320.00	\$0.00	\$320.00
County Public Works Staff (oversee Contract etc.)	32	hrs	\$20.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$0.00	\$640.00
<b>STAFF TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$960.00</b>	<b>\$960.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$960.00</b>
<b>CONTRACTS:</b>							
Grading contract	1.00	ea	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
<b>CONTRACTS TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>
<b>MATERIALS/SUPPLIES:</b>							
	1.00	ea	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>MATERIALS/SUPPLIES TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>EQUIPMENT USE EXPENSES:</b>							
Volunteer Vehicle Use	2.00	days	\$150.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
<b>EQUIPMENT USE EXPENSES TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>
<b>EQUIPMENT PURCHASES:</b>							
				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>EQUIPMENT PURCHASES TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>OTHER:</b>							
				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>OTHER TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL:</b>				<b>\$21,260.00</b>	<b>\$1,260.00</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>\$21,260.00</b>
<b>INDIRECT COSTS (Administrative Costs Not to exceed 10% of Request amount) :</b>				<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$23,260.00</b>	<b>\$3,260.00</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>\$23,260.00</b>
<b>TOTAL (Rounded to the nearest \$1,000):</b>				<b>\$23,000</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$23,000</b>
*Unit: Enter the appropriate unit of measure (e.g., hours = hrs., months = mos., each = ea., feet = ft., miles = mi.,							

#### 15. Amount of match funds, materials, and volunteer labor designated for project:

Volunteer labor and vehicle will be used to document project progress.

County staff will develop and let a road improvement contract.

Volunteer labor and resources will be used for administrative (indirect) costs associated with the project. This will eliminate a \$2000.00 portion of the allowable amount of 10% of the requested funding.

Total match value: \$3,260.00 (16%)

## **16. Experience of applicant in completing similar projects**

2009 - The Central Coast Motorcycle Association first applied for San Luis Obispo County OHV License funds in 2009. The CCMA was awarded \$15,000 to complete trail maintenance and \$10,000 for specialist surveys needed to complete planning for the Navajo Flats Project. The trail maintenance was successfully completed by the California Conservation Corps and CCMA in April of 2009. The Navajo Flats Plan was completed by the US Forest Service in 2012 as the first phase of the current Navajo Flats Improvement Project.

2011 – The Central Coast Motorcycle Association was awarded \$25,000 from the SLO County OHV License Fund for trail reconstruction. Work was completed on the Mare Springs trail in May 2011 by the CCC with the CCMA providing construction materials and logistical support.

2012 - The Central Coast Motorcycle Association was awarded \$25,000 from the SLO County OHV License fund for a two phase project that would include phase 1, flagging of trail reroutes, followed by phase 2, environmental surveys necessary to study the reroutes for construction. The reroutes were flagged in during May-June of 2013. Preliminary biological surveys have been completed and the Forest Service will soon open scoping for the project.

2013 - The Central Coast Motorcycle Association was awarded \$41,000 for furnishings for the Navajo Flats Improvement Project and \$8000 for development of the Turkey Flats Concept design through the San Luis Obispo County OHV Grants program. Both projects have been completed. In addition, the CCMA received a Ground Operations grant for trail and facility maintenance from the State OHV Division grants program and \$19,000 from the Recreational Trails Program, also for the Navajo Flats Improvement Project.

2014 – The Central Coast Motorcycle Association was awarded:

\$23,090.04 for restoration projects. Approximately 1000 linear feet of fencing was repaired last year using these funds. Additional work is anticipated this year when conditions permit.

\$41,000.00 for completing an Environmental Assessment for rerouting of 10 sections of OHV trail on the Los Padres National Forest. Significant progress has been made on this project, however there have been delays due to the retirement of the Forest archaeologist. We anticipate release of the environmental planning documents by January of 2016.

\$21,000.00 for the purchase of a trail dozer. This purchase has been completed and the dozer was used for maintenance last year.

2015 – The Central Coast Motorcycle Association was awarded:

\$40,000 for Trail Maintenance projects

\$12,000 for Trail Maintenance Equipment Purchase

## **17. Allowable Use Criteria and Grant Evaluation Criteria**

Meets the criteria for **Operation and Maintenance category** because:



- a. It sustains existing off-highway motor vehicle recreation opportunities.
- b. Improves support facilities (access road) for motorized recreation as well as access to non-motorized recreation through trail maintenance.

Grant Evaluation Criteria:

- a. The money requested for ground operations/maintenance will be used to maintain access to off-highway motor vehicle recreation opportunities and motorized access to non-motorized recreation activities.
- b. Approximately 16% match of the project cost consisting of volunteer labor and resources (see section 15).
- c. Past performance in completing and administrating grant project is good (see section 16).
- d. Benefit of project is estimated to be to more than 7000 people (based on county OHV registration records for 2006, see section 8).

**Attachment 1 Verification of Non-Profit Status**

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **MAR 11 2004**

FRIENDS OF EL MIRAGE  
3550 FOOTHILL BLVD  
GLENDALE, CA 91214-0000

Employer Identification Number:  
95-4762400

DLN:

17053052736044

Contact Person:

KATHY L BURNS

ID# 31117

Contact Telephone Number:

(877) 829-5500

Public Charity Status:

170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Dear Applicant:

Our letter dated January 2001, stated you would be exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and you would be treated as a public charity during an advance ruling period.

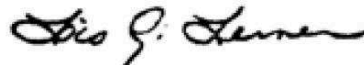
Based on our records and on the information you submitted, we are pleased to confirm that you are exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code, and you are classified as a public charity under the Code section listed in the heading of this letter.

Publication 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, provides detailed information about your rights and responsibilities as an exempt organization. You may request a copy by calling the toll-free number for forms, (800) 829-3676. Information is also available on our Internet Web Site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

If you have general questions about exempt organizations, please call our toll-free number shown in the heading between 8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Eastern time.

Please keep this letter in your permanent records.

Sincerely yours,



Lois G. Lerner  
Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements

Letter 1050 (DO/CG)

1'd

## **Attachment 2 Forest Service Letter of Support**



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

**Forest  
Service**

**Los Padres  
National Forest**

**Supervisor's Office  
6755 Hollister Ave., Suite 150  
Goleta, CA 93117  
(805) 968-6640  
TDD: (805) 968-6790**

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**File Code: 1500/2300**

**Date: October 27, 2015**

Nick Franco  
Deputy Director of County Parks  
County of San Luis Obispo  
1087 Santa Rosa Street  
San Luis Obispo, Ca 93408

Dear Mr. Franco:

The Los Padres National Forest is pleased to support the Central Coast Motorcycle Association (CCMA) and the County of San Luis Obispo in submitting four grant applications in support of the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation program on the Santa Lucia Ranger District.

The first proposal is to conduct trail tread work and drainage structure repair on various trails on the District including Mare Springs, Howards Bypass, and Las Chiches trails. The maintenance will be accomplished by various methods including hand work to be completed by contract labor such as the California Conservation Corps, and mechanized trail maintenance using power equipment. CCMA volunteers, using their own vehicles and trail dozer, will provide some grading, labor and logistical support including 4X4 pick-up trucks, equipment trailers, ATV's and UTV's. The CCMA is requesting \$29,000 for this purpose.

In addition, the CCMA is requesting grant funding in the amount of \$25,000 for the purchase of equipment, including attachments for the trail dozer, power equipment to install fencing and retaining walls, and other items for use on the trail system. The CCMA has been successful in obtaining grant funding for the purchase of a Sutter Trail Dozer which is one of only two such machines on the Los Padres. Additional equipment such as attachments for the dozer will increase the effectiveness of the trail maintenance program.

Since 2014 the CCMA has been coordinating the Pozo La Panza Reroute Project. This planning project would reroute approximately 10 sections of trail on the Pozo La Panza trail system. The project is being done in coordination with Forest Service resource specialists who provide oversight. Due to the retirement of the District archaeologist and other factors we understand the project has exhausted available funding and will require supplemental funding in the amount of \$12,000. We support this request.

We understand that the CCMA is submitting a fourth request this year to augment funding available to the County Public Works Department to improve approximately 8000 feet of High Mountain Road. This section of road traverses private property and therefore cannot be maintained by the Forest Service. The majority of the road is located on federal lands.



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Maintenance of the non-federal section has been a longstanding problem and we support the CCMA's request for \$20,000 in maintenance funding.

A combination of state, county, and federal grant funding coordinated by the CCMA has been essential to the District's OHV recreation program. We look forward to the continued leadership and coordination between the CCMA, The County of San Luis Obispo, and the Forest Service. Thanks you for your efforts in providing ways to improve recreational activities on the forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Baird', with a stylized flourish at the end.

FOR

ROBERT BAIRD  
Forest Supervisor

### Attachment 3 Cal Fire Letter of Support



635 N. Santa Rosa • San Luis Obispo, CA 93405  
Phone: 805-543-4244 • Fax: 805-543-4248  
[www.calfireslo.org](http://www.calfireslo.org)

Robert Lewin, Fire Chief

October 27, 2015

Elizabeth Kavanaugh, Park Planner III  
San Luis Obispo County Parks  
1087 Santa Rosa Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Subject: OHV Funds

Dear Ms. Kavanaugh,

This letter is to demonstrate our support and recommendation for granting OHV funds for making much needed improvements to the West Cuesta Ridge /TV Tower Road and to Hi Mountain Road. Currently these roads are impassible by most vehicles. Travel on these roads by fire engines is limited to four-wheel drive and they must travel at extremely slow speeds to prevent damage to the vehicle.

As you know, the West Cuesta Ridge Road is the access road for critical communication infrastructure that our agencies rely on. Further, many fire departments, law enforcement agencies as well as cellular services, rely on the access road to maintain and protect their communication sites. There are also public media sites located on the road that are important during an emergency to convey public service announcements on such things as evacuation.

Hi Mountain road is critical for access from the Lake Lopez area to the Pozo community and the wilderness areas of the Los Padres National Forest. Both roads are also used extensively for recreation including mountain bikers and hikers. We respond to many rescues that occur off these roads. Hi Mountain Road provides the evacuation route for the residences of the Ranchita Estates area.

While the West Cuesta Ridge is all in the Los Padres Forest, the Direct Protection for wildland fires is CAL FIRE. The County Fire Department, which is also CAL FIRE, is responsible for all non-law enforcement emergencies. Because of CAL FIRE's responsibilities for this area, we have offered up our non-fiscal support in helping improve this road.

I know you join me in understanding the importance of bringing these roads back up to a level that will allow safe passage, without harm to vehicles and to provide access to critical infrastructure for maintenance and fire protection. Therefore, I recommend that OHV funds be provided to improve these two roads.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Lewin', is written over a horizontal line.

Robert Lewin  
Unit Chief

Cc: Dave Flynn, County Public Works

## Attachment 4 SLO County Public Works Informational Letter of Support



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Wade Horton, Director

County Government Center, Room 206 • San Luis Obispo CA 93408 • (805) 781-5252  
Fax (805) 781-1229 email address: [pwd@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:pwd@co.slo.ca.us)



October 29, 2015

Central Coast Motorcycle Association  
Attn: Dr. Bruce Whitcher  
1670 Pin Oak Lane  
Templeton, CA 93465

Subject: Proposed Work for Hi Mountain Road

Dear Dr. Whitcher:

The County of San Luis Obispo is seeking to establish a Cooperative Agreement with the Forest Service, Los Padres District (USFS) to work jointly to fund and maintain both West Cuesta Ridge Road and Hi Mountain Road. Both facilities have deteriorated and the County has interest to ensure access to these locations. As we work towards specific projects, we are seeking to partner with stakeholders to obtain funds and to implement the work.

The County receives funding from statewide Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) revenues which our Board has established a program for distribution. The majority, 60%, of funding advances through a competitive selection process and the remainder is distributed under the County budget process through specific departments. Our office is looking to proceed with stakeholder groups to continue with OHV applications for the competitive category of funding for both West Cuesta Ridge and Hi Mountain Roads as well as seek funding through the internal budget process distribution.

Due to the magnitude of the work effort, we would intend to seek funding over several fiscal year cycles to rehabilitate portions of the road at a time. While we may indicate an overall cost, we would be seeking to accept lesser amounts to address portions of the road to keep access available. The specific work would be defined under a Project Agreement with USFS. Moreover, we would expect to seek budget for these roads on an on-going basis from the internal OHV fund distribution to provide for on-going maintenance once segments of road are rehabilitated.

For Hi Mountain Road, the phasing of road elements may occur from either the northerly or southerly boundary or may begin with a list of specific creek crossings as the initial focused work effort. Applications along those lines would be considered and then sought to be matched with budgeting from the internal OHV fund process.

Please let me know if you have any questions. You can contact me at (805)781-4463.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Dave Flynn".

DAVE FLYNN  
Deputy Director – Transportation/Capital Projects

c: Elizabeth Kavanuagh, Parks Department

File: Rd 2034 Hi Mountain Road

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